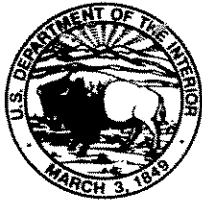


APPENDIX G

TRIBAL AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

RECEIVED
7/26/02



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Washington, D.C. 20240

<http://www.blm.gov>

July 3, 2002

RE: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vegetation Treatments Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western U.S., Including Alaska

Dear Chairperson:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing a programmatic EIS to evaluate the impacts of the vegetative treatments on the environment and local economies. The BLM is proposing to treat vegetation on approximately six million acres annually in the western U.S., and Alaska. The purpose of these treatments is to conserve and restore the function of vegetation, watershed, and fish and wildlife habitat. Vegetation treatment methods could include mechanical, manual, chemical, biological, and cultural control, as well as prescribed fires. Cultural control utilizes goats and other animals.

Approximately half the acres would be treated to restore historic fire regimes and to reduce the risk of wildfires on BLM-administered lands. The BLM estimated that 1-1½ million acres of wildfire-damaged land would be treated annually under the Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation program. The BLM would manage the rest of the acreage under several programs, including the control of noxious weeds, invasive plants, and the restoration of damaged lands by seeding and replanting.

As part of the program, the BLM is proposing to evaluate five new herbicides for possible use on public lands in the EIS. We are currently assessing risk to humans, fish, and wildlife from use of these chemicals. In addition, BLM will develop a protocol as part of the EIS which will allow us to streamline the process of evaluation and approval of herbicides that may be developed in the future.

The vegetation treatment actions would occur on public lands administered by the BLM in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. The enclosed sheet titled "Frequently Asked Questions" discusses the vegetation treatment's program and the EIS, and the enclosed map shows the locations of BLM-administered lands in your State.


The programmatic EIS is designed to look at the broad impacts associated with the design to implement the vegetation treatment program. Because the program covers such a large area, assessing site-specific impacts in this EIS is not realistic. This approach will allow the future development of more site-specific National Environmental Policy Act documents, such as land-use plans and project-specific analysis. The need for repetitive discussion of the same issues in the site-specific documents will be eliminated.

The BLM is coordinating closely with other Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American Tribes, Alaska Native groups, and other stakeholders. The BLM recently completed public scoping and is in the process of reviewing comments and identifying alternative treatment actions to the proposed action. We anticipate that the Draft EIS will be completed later this fall.

The BLM seeks to address the effects of treatment methods on resources used by Native Americans and Alaska Native groups. We ask that you review the enclosed materials and inform us of any concerns you might have about any of the proposed vegetation treatments. We are particularly interested in potential impacts on subsistence plants and animals, and on traditional cultural properties. We are also interested in potential impacts on resources associated with reserved rights under treaty, where they exist. Could you tell us which of the treatment activities are of further concern to you? Please let us know whether you would like to provide information and if you would like to participate in the environmental process by receiving review copies of the documents that we produce. Continued consultation with the affected Indian Tribes and Alaska Native groups will occur during the development and implementation of special projects by BLM field offices. We will keep you informed as to the progress of the project. You may also visit the BLM website to learn more about the project: <http://www.blm.gov/weeds/VegEIS/index.htm>.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. We would appreciate your response within 30 days. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like additional information, please contact Gina Ramos, co-team lead at 202-452-4084 or Brian Amme, Project Manager at 775-861-6645.

Sincerely,


Assistant Director, Renewable Resources
and Planning

2 Enclosures

- 1 - Frequently Asked Questions
- 2 - Project Area Map



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



VEGETATION TREATMENTS PROGRAMMATIC EIS FOR THE WESTERN U.S. AND ALASKA

Frequently Asked Questions

Project Description

Q. What is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposing to do?

A. The BLM is proposing to treat soil and vegetation on an estimated 6 million acres annually in the western U.S. and Alaska. The purpose of these treatments would be to conserve and restore vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and watershed functions using several treatment methods. Mechanical, manual, chemical, biological, and cultural (use of goats and other animals) treatment methods, and prescribed fire, would be used to treat vegetation.

Over half of the acres would be treated to restore historic fire regimes and reduce the risk of wildfire on BLM-administered lands. An estimated one million acres damaged by wildfires would be treated annually under the Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Program. The remaining acreage would be managed under several BLM programs, and management would primarily involve the control of noxious weeds and invasive plants, and the restoration of damaged lands by seeding and replanting.

In addition, the BLM may be allowed to use several proposed herbicides that will be evaluated in the EIS, as well as new chemicals that may be developed in the future.

Q. Where would the proposed actions occur?

A. The vegetation treatment actions would occur on public lands administered by the BLM in the western U.S. and Alaska. The majority of these lands are in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Q. Will the EIS include National Monuments and National Conservation Areas?

A. Yes, since they are included in the project area. These units will be analyzed as part of the broad programmatic treatment area to the extent that conservation and restoration project work, including invasive and noxious weed treatments, are allowed by the individual National Landscape Conservation System proclamations.

Q. How is this project different from what the BLM is already doing?

A. The BLM is currently authorized under earlier National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) programmatic EISs to treat vegetation on approximately 500,000 acres in the western U.S.; however, Alaska was not included in the analyses in these EISs. Under the proposed program, the BLM would be able to treat several million more acres annually, and treatment activities in Alaska would also be covered under this EIS.

Q. Why does the BLM need to treat several million more acres annually?

A. Numerous large wildfires in the west in recent years have made it imperative that wildfire fuels be reduced to decrease the potential for future catastrophic wildfires. Over half of the acres would be treated to restore historic fire regimes and to reduce risk of wildfire on BLM-administered lands, especially those near urban areas. Over a million acres of lands burned by wildfires would be restored annually by seeding and planting. The remaining acres would be treated under several BLM programs, and management would primarily involve the control of noxious weeds and invasive plants.

EIS Development Process

Q. Why is the BLM developing this EIS?

A. The BLM is preparing a programmatic EIS to evaluate the impacts of treatments for the conservation and restoration of vegetation, watershed, and fish and wildlife habitat on surface lands administered by the BLM in the western U.S., including Alaska. The BLM is developing the EIS to update and replace analyses contained in four existing vegetation treatment EISs that were completed between 1986 and 1992. These documents are becoming less useful because new information is now available, and conditions and circumstances influencing treatment requirements have changed. For example, several new fire initiatives, including the National Fire Plan, Integrated Weed Management Plan, and Great Basin Restoration Initiative, have identified a need to do more vegetative treatments across the landscape to reduce the risks of wildfires and to control noxious weeds. The EIS is also being developed to analyze similar activities on BLM-administered lands in Alaska, which were not included in the earlier EISs.

Q. What is the purpose of the EIS?

A. The EIS will: (1) provide a comprehensive analysis of BLM conservation and restoration activities involving the treatment, modification, or restoration of vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, and watersheds; (2) provide a comprehensive programmatic NEPA document for use by local BLM field offices for local land-use planning; (3) serve as a baseline cumulative impact assessment; (4) assess human and environmental health risks from proposed new herbicides and prescribed burning activities; and (5) consider state-specific activities, including hazardous fuels treatments, to protect communities and restore desired natural fire regimes.

Q. Is the EIS a land-use plan?

A. No, the EIS is neither a land-use plan nor an amendment to a land-use plan. As a programmatic EIS, it will not determine land use on the public lands and will not address specific agency management decisions developed under local land use plans.

Q. What is the difference between a programmatic EIS and project-specific EIS?

A. A programmatic EIS is designed to look at the broad, generic impacts associated with a decision to fully implement a program. Because this EIS covers vegetation treatment activities on 15 states, it is not realistically possible to assess site-specific impacts associated with the program. A programmatic EIS also allows for the tiering of more site-specific NEPA documents, such as land-use plans, eliminating the need for repetitive discussions of the same issues. A project-specific EIS looks at impacts associated with a site-specific project, such as vegetation treatment activities on 1,000 acres of BLM-administered lands.

Q. How will this EIS affect current and future local land-use plans?

A. There should be little effect on current land-use plans. However, the programmatic EIS should minimize the need for cumulative impact documentation in future individual land-use plans, revisions, amendments, and EISs. The EIS will act as an umbrella document under which the local field offices can develop local land-use plans by providing comprehensive general guidelines, and will serve as a baseline cumulative impact assessment.

Q. Who is developing the EIS?

A. The BLM Office of Rangelands, Soils, Water and Air in Washington, D.C., is leading the project, supported by BLM technical resource specialists in BLM offices throughout the western U.S. and Alaska. ENSR International, a third-party contractor, will conduct the public meetings and prepare the EIS in accordance with BLM guidelines and oversight.

Q. Are there any other federal agencies involved in the effort?

A. There are no other federal agencies involved as cooperating agencies; however, the project is being closely coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Environmental Protection Agency.

Q. Are tribal, state, and local governments involved in the EIS process?

A. The BLM will coordinate closely with tribal, state, and local governments, the National Association of Counties, and the Western Governors Association throughout development of the EIS.

Q. How much has been done so far, and what is the next step?

A. The Notice of Intent to develop the EIS was published in the Federal Register on October 12, 2001, and a news release was distributed to the media, interested groups, and state agencies by the BLM at the same time. A notice of the extension of the public comment period and the schedule for scoping meetings was published in the Federal Register on January 2, 2002, and a "Questions and Answers" information sheet was distributed on the same date. Nineteen public scoping meetings will be held throughout the western U.S., and in Alaska and Washington, D.C., during January through mid March.

Q. When is the EIS scheduled for completion?

A. The Draft EIS is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2002, and the Final EIS in late summer 2003.

Potential Issues to Be Examined in the EIS

Q. Does this EIS involve controversial issues?

A. It is anticipated that most public scrutiny will focus on issues associated with the use of prescribed fire and restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems, and the use of herbicides to control noxious weeds and other vegetation. Specific issues to be addressed in the EIS include the impacts of wildfires and prescribed fires on regional air quality; effects of herbicides on human and environmental health; effects of treatment methods on threatened and endangered species; and effects of treatment methods on resources used by Native Americans and Alaska Native groups.

Q. What issues will this EIS not cover?

A. The EIS will not address vegetation management that is primarily focused on commercial timber or other forest product enhancement and use, livestock forage enhancement and use, abandoned mine land reclamation, and energy production. The EIS will not analyze fire suppression operations and soil stabilization, except where related to vegetation treatment. The EIS also will not make land use allocations, or evaluate off-road vehicle use of BLM-administered lands.

Q. Will there be an assessment of risks to the public and the environment from the use of herbicides and prescribed burning?

A. A risk assessment will be done to determine the likely risks to humans and wildlife from the treatments involving new herbicides proposed for use by the BLM, and from prescribed burning. The EIS will not evaluate the risks from herbicides presently being used by the BLM, which have already been evaluated in the earlier EISs, unless new information has become available to suggest that these herbicides require further evaluation.

Q. Will the EIS include alternatives for treating vegetation and mitigation?

A. Yes, the EIS will include alternative proposals for treating vegetation, including the use of preventive measures and operational procedures to reduce impacts to humans and the environment.

Q. Will there be a process developed to determine which new chemicals the BLM can use to control vegetation?

A. Yes, the EIS will also include protocol that the BLM should follow to evaluate new chemicals that may be developed in the future, prior to their use by the agency. These herbicides could only be used if they are: (1) registered for use by the EPA; (2) used for treatment of appropriate vegetation types and at application rates specified on the label directions; and (3) determined to be safe to humans and the environment based on a toxicological and environmental impacts analysis of the herbicides by the BLM.

Public Involvement

Q. When will the public be able to make comments on the project?

A. NEPA regulations require federal agencies to seek public input during development of the EIS. The public will have several opportunities to discuss this project with the BLM and to make comments, such as:

- At public scoping meetings held in 19 cities from January 8 through March 12, 2002.
- By submitting comments on issues identified in the scoping process and any additional issues that should be addressed, through March 29, 2002.
- By submitting comments through additional public comment periods associated with the Draft EIS and Final EIS.

Q. How can the public comment on the program?

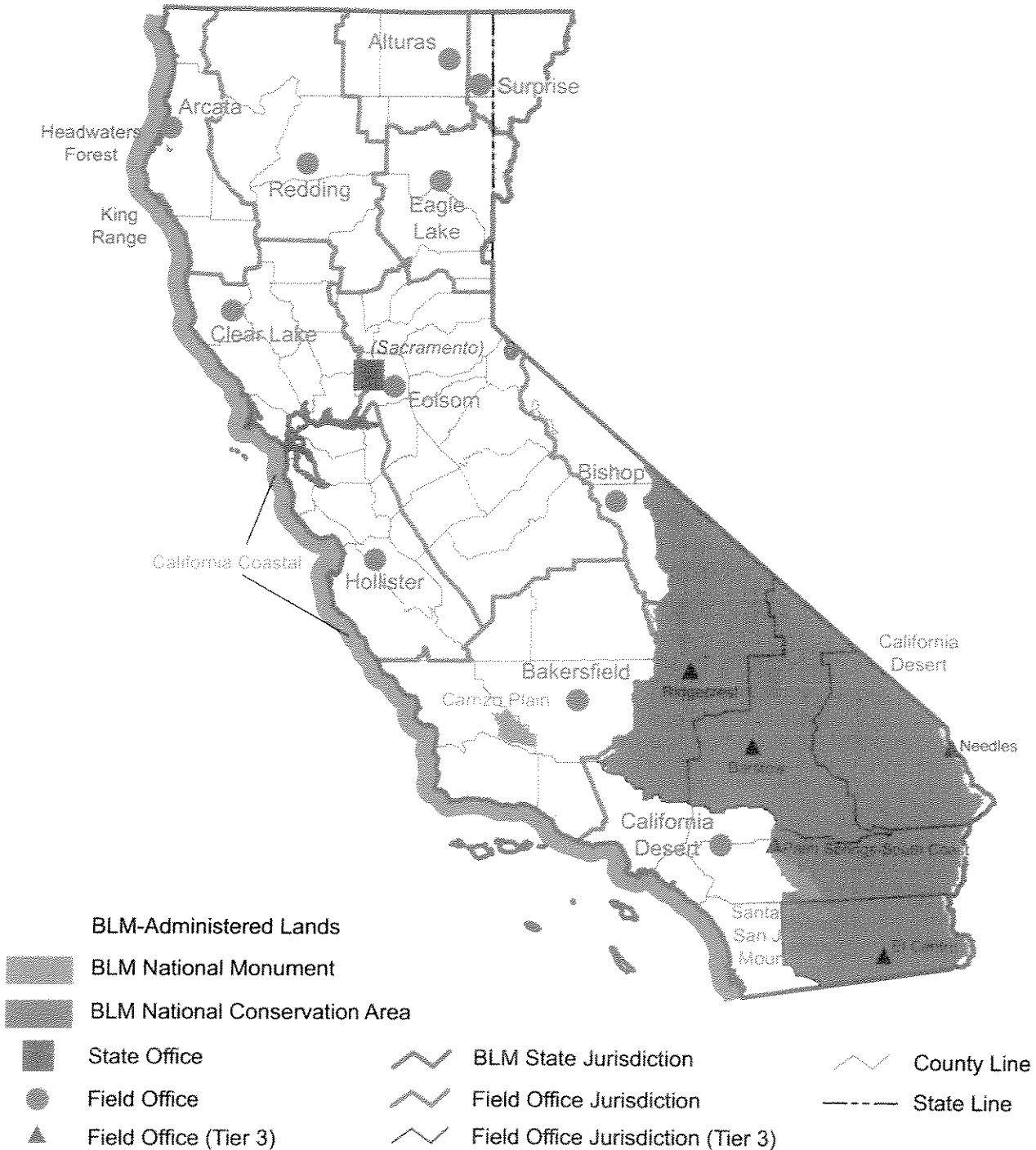
A. The public can provide formal comments to the court reporter who will be available during each scoping meeting. Forms to submit written comment will also be available during the scoping meeting, and at local BLM offices, and can be turned in to the BLM at the scoping meeting or local office. These forms, or other written comments, can also be mailed to: Brian Amme, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006. Comments can also be faxed to Mr. Amme at (775) 861-6712.

Q. What will be done with these comments?

A. The comments will be compiled and summarized by major resource areas and issues in a scoping summary report. Public comments, and the scoping summary report, will be used to evaluate issues and concerns associated with the proposed program, and to develop alternative programs to treat vegetation on BLM-administered lands. Alternative programs could involve vegetation treatment using fewer treatment methods than are currently proposed by the BLM, or different amounts of acres treated using each method. The scoping summary report will be made available to the public in late spring.

Q. How can I find out more about the project, review the earlier EISs, and follow the progress of the EIS?

A. A website is currently under construction on the BLM website (www.blm.gov) and will be available in February 2002.



In addition to the surface acreage shown, the BLM manages 47.5 million acres of subsurface mineral estate for this state jurisdiction.

For more information on this data, contact
Keith Francis at NSTC, keith_francis@blm.gov or 303-236-0113.

Ms. Judith Bittner, SHPO
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Office of History & Archeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Mr. James W. Garrison, SHPO
Arizona State Parks
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dr. Knox Mellon, SHPO
Office of Hist Pres, Dept Parks &
Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento CA 94296-0001

Ms. Georgianna Contiguglia, SHPO
Colorado Historical Society
1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

Steve Guerber, SHPO
Idaho State Historical Society
1109 Main Street, Suite 250
Boise, ID 83702-5642

Dr. Ramon S. Powers, SHPO, Executive
Director
Kansas State Historical Society
6425 Southwest 6th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66615-1099

Dr. Mark F. Baumler, SHPO
State Historic Preservation Office
1410 8th Avenue
P.O. Box 201202
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Mr. Lawrence Sommer, SHPO
Nebraska State Historical Society
P.O. Box 82554
1500 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68501

Mr. Ronald James, SHPO
Historic Preservation Office
100 N Stewart Street
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89701-4285

Elmo Baca, SHPO
Historic Preservation Div.,
Affairs
228 East Palace Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Mr. Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr., SHPO
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, SHPO
Oklahoma Historical Society
2100 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Mr. Michael Carrier, SHPO
State Parks & Recreation Department
1115 Commercial Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301-1012

Mr. Jay D. Vogt, SHPO
State Historic Preservation Office
Cultural Heritage Center
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Mr. F. Lawrence Oaks, SHPO
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Mr. Max Evans, SHPO
Utah State Historical Society
300 Rio Grande
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Dr. Allyson Brooks SHPO
Ofc of Archeology & Historic Preservation

PO Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

Mr. Richard Currit, SHPO
Wyoming State Hist. Pres. Ofc.
2301 Central Avenue, 4th Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002

NAVAJO NATION
Dr. Alan Downer, HPO
PO Box 4950
Window Rock, AZ 86515
520-871-6437 FAX: 520-871-7886

OMAHA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

P. O. Box 368
Macy, Nebraska 68039

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Donald F. Grant, Chairman
Valentine Parker, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Doran Morris, Sr., Treasurer
Eleanor Baxter, Secretary

02 AUG 15 AM 7:30



NATURAL RESOURCES

(402) 837-5391
FAX (402) 837-5308

MEMBERS

Clifford R. Wolfe, Jr.
Orville Cayou
Gregory L. Spears

August 13, 2002

Brian Amme
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. BOX 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Re: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vegetation Treatments Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western U.S., Including Alaska

Dear Mr. Amme:

We have received the information report prepared for the above-referenced project that BLM is proposing. The purpose of these treatments is to conserve and restore the function of vegetation, watershed, and fish and wildlife habitat and including control of noxious weeds, and the restoration of damaged lands by seeding and replanting.

Thank you for providing the Omaha Tribe with the opportunity to review this undertaking.

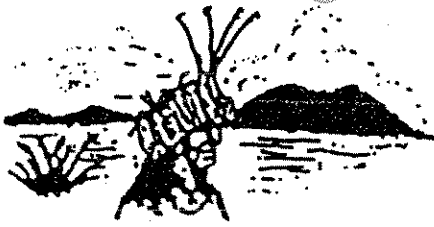
We make comment based on the enclosed material, we would like to participate in the environmental process by receiving copies of the documents that BLM produces.

Please keep us informed as to the progress of the project or any additional information.

Feel free to contact this office (402) 837-5391 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Lyons
Real Estate Services
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska



Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

July 22, 2002

Brian Amme
Project Manager Vegetation/Habitat Treatments
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV. 89520-0006

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE

Dear Mr. Amme,

I am writing this letter in response to the letter of July 3rd, 2002 requesting input from Tribal agencies about the Vegetation Treatment EIS. Pomo Tribes are world-renowned for the quality of their historic basketweaving. Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians is in the process of restoring this tradition among Tribal members, including children. Because Traditional materials such as willow, sedge, and redbud are held in the mouth while splitting, our weavers are **very** concerned about chemical residues that may remain on plants as a result of spraying for vegetation control. The California Indian Basketweaver's Association has completed a study about the persistence of chemicals in the landscape (notably Round-up) that indicates long-term presence (up to 300+ days) in the landscape. This problem is especially important when large tracts of land are subjected to aerial spraying for vegetation control.

Traditional Pomo weavers managed their gathering sites with controlled burns, and therefore, Scotts Valley supports the use of fire as a management tool. We understand that this is controversial due to recent events, but with **closer attention to conditions in the field**, we feel fire can be an excellent management tool. Again, due to chemical residues left by kerosene products, we suggest using propane to start controlled burns in areas where basketweavers are likely to collect materials. The California Indian Basketweaver's Association has made this suggestion to the Parks Service and they are currently using the less detrimental product.

We appreciate your request for comments on this project, and hope that you will take our concerns seriously.

Sincerely,

Diana L. Hershey
Diana Hershey
Planning/Development Manager

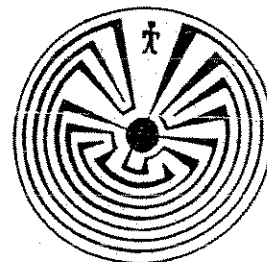


TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 837 • SELLS, AZ 85634

Telephone (520) 383-3622 • Fax (520) 383-337



August 1, 2002

Brian Amme, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1200
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

Dear Mr. Amme:

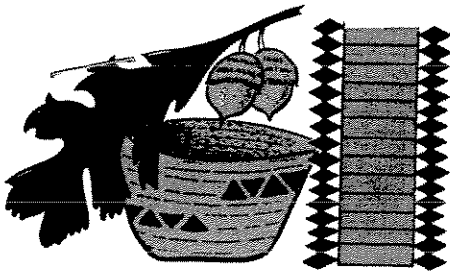
Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Bureau of Land Management Vegetation Treatments Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western United States, including Alaska.

The Cultural Affairs Office has several comments and questions:

1. Concerns over types of herbicides, please send information on the five new herbicides you are considering for use. Effects on other plants, animals and people.
2. Areas that will be treated with mechanical or manual method that disturb the ground will require completion of archaeological surveys.
3. Once specific areas are identified, State BLM Office need to consult with the tribes in each state.
4. Effects on cultural resource properties need to be evaluated.
5. Effects on plants used by Native Americans for medicines or for crafts.
6. Please send copies of all relevant technical reports.
7. Tribes should be invited to be signatories of any programmatic agreements.
8. Please send copy of Draft EIS
9. Please send list of times and places for scoping meetings Please schedule scoping meetings for the Tohono O'odham Nation.
10. Effects of project on endangered species.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Steere
Manager, Cultural Affairs



TUOLUMNE ME-WUK TRIBAL COUNCIL

Post Office Box 699
TUOLUMNE, CALIFORNIA 95379

Telephone (209) 928-3475

Fax (209) 928-1677

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, DC 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: EIS for the Western U.S.

In regard to the correspondence received concerning the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Vegetation Treatments on BLM's Land; the Tribe would like to be kept up on any issues and would like to see a copy of the draft and final EIS statement.

We, as Native Americans are very concerned about the chemical uses on cultural plants, especially basket materials. We hope that the evaluating of the five new herbicides for possible use on public lands will include the long-range effects on cultural plants as well as the effects on our sacred water sources.

We are also concerned due to the fact that a lot of Pre-historical sites do not flag in cultural plants, which we feel are a large part of the cultural significance of any site. These unprotected cultural plants, outside the flag lines are then exposed to the herbicides used on our forestlands.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment upon this large undertaking. We are looking forward to receiving the draft Environmental Statement so that we may also comment on that. If you have any questions you may contact Vicki Biggs, Natural Resource Technician for the Tribe, (209) 928-3475.

Vicki Biggs

Natural Resource Technician

Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS CONSULTATION



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

JUL 23 2002

Ms. Gina Ramos, Co-team Lead
Renewable Resources and Planning
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D.C. 200240

Dear Ms. Ramos:

This is to comment on the **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vegetation Treatments Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western U.S., Including Alaska** as requested in your letter dated July 3, 2002.

Regarding the BLM's proposed use of herbicides, many American Indian individuals and groups in the Pacific Region actively gather edible plants and basket-making materials from Trust lands and public lands. Edible plants are ingested of course and basket materials are usually placed in the mouth when processing, softening, or when manipulating them during the manufacturing process. These traditional practices need to be considered by the BLM when planning any herbicide treatments. Some tribes have ordinances that prohibit the use of herbicides on their lands to protect their traditional gatherers and/or plants or animals. Because the exact locations of traditional use areas are often confidential or unrecorded, it is recommended that the BLM consult with local tribes on a project by project basis when considering herbicide treatments. It is also recommended you contact the California Basket-makers Association. To obtain contact information for Federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native groups, please contact Ms. Daisy West at (202) 208-2475.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Hinshaw, Forestry Branch Environmental Compliance Coordinator, at (916) 978-6021, or Ron Recker, Acting Regional Forester, at (916) 978-6065.

Sincerely,

Acting Regional Director

*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office:**Self-Gov. Compact:****Term of Office - Expiration Date:****Ronald Jaeger, Regional Director****Pacific Regional Office****Bureau of Indian Affairs****2800 Cottage Way****Sacramento, CA 95825****Phone No: (916) 978-6000 Fax No: (916) 978-6099****e-mail:**

BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency**Self-Gov. Compact:****Term of Office - Expiration Date:****Dale Kisting, Sr., Superintendent****Central California Agency****Bureau of Indian Affairs****650 Capital Mall, Suite 8-500****Sacramento, CA 95814****Phone No: (916) 930-3680 Fax No: (916) 930-3780****e-mail:**

BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office**Self-Gov. Compact:****Term of Office - Expiration Date:****Virgil Akins, Superintendent****Northern California Field Office****Bureau of Indian Affairs****1900 Churn Creek Road, Suite 300****Redding, CA 96002-0292****Phone No: (530) 246-5141 Fax No: (530) 246-5167****e-mail:**

BIA Agency Office: Palm Springs Field Office**Self-Gov. Compact:****Term of Office - Expiration Date:****John Rydzik, Acting Director****Palm Springs Field Office****Bureau of Indian Affairs****650 East Tahquitz Canyon****Way, Suite A****PO Box 2245****Palm Springs, CA 92262****Phone No: (760) 416-2133 Fax No: (760) 416-2687****e-mail:**

BIA Agency Office: Southern California Agency**Self-Gov. Compact:****Term of Office - Expiration Date:****Virgil Townsend, Superintendent****Southern California Agency****Bureau of Indian Affairs****2038 Iowa Avenue, Suite 101****Riverside, CA 92507-0001****Phone No: (909) 276-6624 Fax No: (909) 276-6641****e-mail:**

*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Palm Springs Field Office

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Mar 2002**

Richard Milanovich, Chairman

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

600 East Tahquitz Canyon Way

Palm Springs, CA 92262

Phone No: **(760) 325-3400** Fax No: **(760) 325-0593**

e-mail:

BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Apr 2002**

Paul Del Rosa, Chairman

Alturas Rancheria

P.O. Box 340

Alturas, CA 96101

Phone No: **(530) 233-5571** Fax No: **(530) 233-4165**

e-mail:

BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

Jessica Tavares, President

United Auburn Indian Community

661 Newcastle Road, Suite 1

Newcastle, CA 95658

Phone No: **(916) 663-3720** Fax No: **(916) 663-3727**

e-mail:

BIA Agency Office: Southern California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Indefinite**

Mary Ann Martin, Chairperson

Augustine Band of Mission Indians

P.O. Box 846

Coachella, CA 92236

Phone No: **(760) 369-7171** Fax No: **(760) 369-7161**

e-mail:

BIA Agency Office: Southern California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Dec 2002**

Clifford M. LaChappa, Sr., Spokesman

Barona Band of Mission Indians

1095 Barona Road

Lakeside, CA 92040

Phone No: **(619) 443-6612** Fax No: **(619) 443-0681**

e-mail:

www.baronatribe.com/government.html

BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Mar 2002**

James W. Moon, Jr., Chairman

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jan 2001**

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: Jun 2003

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Dec 2000

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Jul 2000

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Dec 2003

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Aug 2004

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BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Pacific RegionSelf-Gov. Compact: **YES**Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jun 2001**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jan 2004**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **May 2005**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Apr 2004**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Dec 2003**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **May 2002**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **May 2001**

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: **Central California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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BIA Agency Office: **Central California Agency**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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BIA Agency Office: **Southern California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact: **YES**

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jun 2003**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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BIA Agency Office: **Northern California Field Office**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **2004**

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BIA Agency Office: **Central California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Nov 1999**

**Denise Pollard, Acting Chairperson
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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jan 2004**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Nov 2003**

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BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Feb 2002**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact: **YES**

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jun 2003**

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Southern California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Indefinite

Rebecca Osuna, Chairperson**Inaja-Cosmit Reservation****1040 East Valley Parkway, Unit A****Escondido, CA 92025**

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BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Dec 2003

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Jul 2003

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BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office

Self-Gov. Compact: YES

Term of Office - Expiration Date: May 2000

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: Jan 2004

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: Indefinite

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **May 2002**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jul 2006**

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: **Central California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **May 2001**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **2002**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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BIA Agency Office: **Southern California Agency**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jan 2003**

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BIA Agency Office: **Central California Agency**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Dec 2002**

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BIA Agency Office: **Southern California Agency**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Aug 2002**

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: 2003

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: Jun 2002

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: Indefinite

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Dec 2003**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Dec 2002**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Apr 2003**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jan 2003**

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BIA Agency Office: Southern California Agency

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Aug 2002**

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*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

Michael Sisco, Chairman**Santa Rosa Rancheria****P.O. Box 8****Lemoore, CA 93245**

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BIA Agency Office: Southern California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Mar 2003****Vincent Armenta, Chairman****Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians****P.O. Box 517****Santa Ynez, CA 93460**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Dec 2002****Ben Scerato, Chairman****Santa Ysabel Band of Mission Indians****P.O. Box 130****Santa Ysabel, CA 92070**

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

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BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Jan 2003****Nicholas H. Fonseca, Chairman****Shingle Springs Rancheria****P.O. Box 1340****Shingle Springs, CA 95682**

Phone No: (530) 676-8010 Fax No: (530) 676-8033

e-mail: maudu10@hotmail.com

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: **May 2004****Kara L. Miller, Chairperson****Smith River Rancheria****250 North Indian Road****Smith River, CA 95567**

Phone No: (707) 487-9255 Fax No: (707) 487-0930

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BIA Agency Office: Southern California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Mar 2005****Robert Salgado, Sr., Spokesman****Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians****P.O. Box 487****San Jacinto, CA 92581**

Phone No: (909) 654-2765 Fax No: (909) 654-4198

e-mail:

*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Nov 2002

Lester R. Pinola, Chairman**Stewarts Point Rancheria****1420-D Guerneville Rd, Suite 3****Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

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e-mail: tribalo@c@stewartspointrancheria.com

BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Nov 2003

Valerie Edwards, Chairperson**Susanville Indian Rancheria****Drawer U****Susanville, CA 96130**

Phone No: (530) 257-6264 Fax No: (530) 257-7986

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BIA Agency Office: Southern California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Dec 2002

Georgia Tucker, Spokesperson**Sycuan Band of Mission Indians****5459 Dehesa Road****El Cajon, CA 92019**

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Term of Office - Expiration Date: Apr 2004

Cheryl A. Seldner, Chairperson**Table Bluff Reservation****1000 Wiyot Drive****Loleta, CA 95551**

Phone No: (707) 733-5055 Fax No: (707) 733-5601

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BIA Agency Office: Central California Agency

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Dec 2003

Leanne Walker-Grant, Chairperson**Table Mountain Rancheria****P.O. Box 410****Friant, CA 93626**

Phone No: (559) 822-2587 Fax No: (559) 822-2693

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Self-Gov. Compact:

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Leroy Jackson, Chairperson**Timbi-sha Shoshone Tribe****P.O. Box 206****Death Valley, CA 92328**

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e-mail: Timbisha@aol.com

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Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Dec 2002

Mary E. Belardo, Chairperson**Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians****P.O. Box 1160****Thermal, CA 92274**

Phone No: (760) 397-8144 Fax No: (760) 397-8146

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BIA Agency Office: Northern California Field Office

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: Apr 1998

Carol Ervin, Chairperson**Trinidad Rancheria****P.O. Box 630****Trinidad, CA 95570**

Phone No: (707) 677-0211 Fax No: (707) 677-3921

e-mail:

*Tribal Leaders and
BIA Representatives
Pacific Region*

BIA Agency Office: **Central California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

Duane Garfield, Chairperson

Tule River Reservation

P.O. Box 589

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Phone No: **(559) 781-4271** Fax No: **(559) 781-4610**

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BIA Agency Office: **Central California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Nov 2000**

Kevin Day, Chairperson

Tuolumne Rancheria

P.O. Box 699

Tuolumne, CA 95379

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BIA Agency Office: **Southern California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Dec 2003**

Dean Mike, Chairman

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

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Phone No: **(760) 775-5566** Fax No: **(760) 775-4639**

e-mail:

BIA Agency Office: **Central California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date:

Leora Treppa-Diego, Chairperson

Upper Lake Rancheria

P.O. Box 516

Upper Lake, CA 95485

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e-mail:

BIA Agency Office: **Southern California Agency**

Self-Gov. Compact:

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Dec 2002**

Steve TeSam, Chairman

Viejas Band of Mission Indians

P.O. Box 908

Alpine, CA 91903

Phone No: **(619) 445-3810** Fax No: **(619) 445-5337**

e-mail:

BIA Agency Office: **Northern California Field Office**

Self-Gov. Compact: **YES**

Term of Office - Expiration Date: **Oct 2003**

Susan M. Masten, Chairperson

Yurok Tribe

1034 Sixth Street

Eureka, CA 95501

Phone No: **(707) 444-0433** Fax No: **(707) 444-0437**

e-mail:

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
CONSULTATION**



**KANSAS
STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**Cultural Resources
Division**

6425 S.W. 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas
66615-1099
PHONE# (785) 272-8681
FAX# (785) 272-8682
TTY# (785) 272-8683

**KANSAS HISTORY
CENTER**

Administration
Center for Historical Research
Cultural Resources
Education / Outreach
Historic Sites
Kansas Museum of History
Library & Archives

HISTORIC SITES

Adair Cabin
Constitution Hall
Cottonwood Ranch
First Territorial Capitol
Fort Hays
Goodnow House
Grinter Place
Hollenberg Station
Kaw Mission
Marais des Cygnes Massacre
Mine Creek Battlefield
Native American Heritage
Museum
Pawnee Indian Village
Pawnee Rock
Shawnee Indian Mission

KSRC No. 02-07-141

August 5, 2002

Gina Ramos
Vegetation EIS Co-Team Lead
US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Vegetation Treatments Programmatic EIS for Western US and Alaska
KS Statewide Projects File

Dear Ms. Ramos:

The Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) would like to thank you for requesting our comments regarding the *Proposed Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vegetation Treatments Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western U.S., Including Alaska*. Because we are unaware of any Bureau of Land Management-administered lands present in the state of Kansas we do not have any concerns for implementation of the proposed vegetation treatments. The SHPO does not have any information to provide the BLM regarding resource areas, subsistence plants or animals, or traditional cultural properties within the state of Kansas of concern to Native American groups. We have chosen not to participate in the environmental process for preparation of the Vegetation EIS and do not wish to receive copies of the documents you produce.

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to comment. If you have questions or need additional information regarding these comments, please contact Will Banks 785-272-8681 (ex. 214) or Jennifer Epperson (ex. 225).

Sincerely,

Mary R. Allman
State Historic Preservation Officer

Richard Pankratz
Richard Pankratz, Director
Historic Preservation Office

RDP/jee

WYOMING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PARKS & CULTURAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Barrett Building
2301 Central Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

(307) 777-7697
FAX (307) 777-6421

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEVADA STATE OFFICE
02 AUG 12 AM 7:36

July 31, 2002

Mr. Brian Amme, Project Manager
U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vegetation Treatments Programmatic Environmental
Impact Statement (EIS) for the Western U.S., Including Alaska; SHPO #0702RLC001

Dear: Mr. Amme,

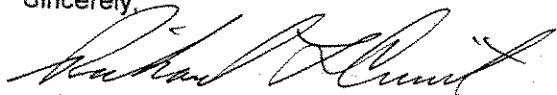
Our staff has received information concerning the aforementioned project. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment.

I am pleased that the BLM is seeking input from Native Americans concerning the effects these proposed treatments may have on resources important to them. Possessing this information prior to the development of the EIS will greatly increase the utility of this document.

There is another issue that I request the BLM analyze as part of the development of this EIS. This is an analysis of the effects of chemical vegetative treatments on organic archaeological remains (these organic remains include, but are not limited to; Carbon 14 dating samples, pollens, seeds, plant fibers, proteins, etc.). This is an issue of considerable concern, particularly the effect of "spike" and other ground penetrating chemical treatments. Addressing this issue as part of this EIS would greatly reduce concerns and confusion during the future development of project specific NEPA documents.

Please refer to SHPO project control number #0702RLC001 on any future correspondence dealing with this project. If you have any questions, contact me at 307-777-5497.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Currit
State Historic Preservation Officer

RLC:jh

Jim Geringer, Governor



John T. Keck, Director

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CONSULTATION

August 28, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
4000 (220)

YR 8/25/03

Dr. Tom Bailey, Chief
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances
Environmental Risk Branch II
Environmental Fate and Effects Division (7505C)
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Bailey:

Thank you for your Agency's comments addressing the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "A General Approach to the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the BLM Vegetation Treatment Environmental Impact Statement."

In May of 2002 two Toxicology Risk Assessment Teams were assembled to address both human health and ecological risks for herbicide use and practices on public lands. The teams included representatives from BLM, BLM's EIS contractor ENSR, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The risk assessment teams had two purposes. The first was to review current and past methodologies used for risk assessments by the BLM and other agencies, including the EPA. The other purpose was to develop a consensus on which methodologies provided the best available science and process or protocol the BLM would use to conduct future human health and ecological risk analyses for chemical herbicides proposed for use on public lands administered by the BLM.

The comments and input provided by the EPA have been invaluable in this effort. The enclosed comment sheet and final ERA document outlines where the BLM has reviewed and incorporated your agency comments. We would like to especially thank Mike Davy from your Environmental Fate and Effects Division for his assistance in helping the BLM to develop the protocol.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gina Ramos, National Vegetation EIS Co-Team lead, at 202-452-5084.

Sincerely,

/s/James G. Kenna (Acting)

Assistant Director, Renewable Resources
and Planning

Enclosure

LLM:220 1620 LS Rm. 204:Gramos:pat:8/12/03:452-5084:EPALetter

August 28, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
4000 (220)

Handwritten:
8/25/03

Memorandum

To: Gary Frazier
Assistant Director for Endangered Species, FWS

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning
Bureau of Land Management

Subject: A General Approach to the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the Bureau of Land
Management (BLM) Vegetation Treatment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

In May 2002, two Toxicology Risk Assessment Teams were assembled to address both human health and ecological risks for herbicide use and practices on public lands. The teams included representatives from the BLM, BLM's EIS contractor ENSR, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The risk assessment teams had two purposes. The first was to review current and past methodologies used for risk assessments by the BLM and other agencies, including the EPA. The other purpose was to develop a consensus on which methodologies provided the best available science and process or protocol the BLM would use to conduct future human health and ecological risk analyses for chemical herbicides proposed for use on public lands administered by the BLM.

The BLM has finalized the attached ERA and will immediately start the risk assessments. The BLM will include the information from the risk assessments in the Draft EIS's Analysis section as well as in the Biological Assessment. We look forward to working with the FWS on the next phase of the EIS as well as ESA consultation. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gina Ramos, Co-team lead at 202-452-5084.

/s/James G. Kenna (Acting)

Attachment

LLM:220 1620 LS Rm. 204:Gramos:pat:452-5084:FWSLetter



August 28, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
4000 (220)

Ms. Laurie K. Allen
Acting Director, NOAA
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources, F/PR-3
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Allen:

Thank you for your comments addressing the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "A General Approach to the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the BLM Vegetation Treatment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)."

In May 2002 two Toxicology Risk Assessment Teams were assembled to address both human health and ecological risks for herbicide use and practices on public lands. The teams included representatives from the BLM, BLM's EIS contractor ENSR, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The risk assessment teams had two purposes. The first was to review current and past methodologies used for risk assessments by the BLM and other agencies, including the EPA. The other purpose was to develop a consensus on which methodologies provided the best available science and process or protocol the BLM would use to conduct future human health and ecological risk analyses for chemical herbicides proposed for use on public lands administered by the BLM.

The comments and input provided by NOAA have been very helpful. The enclosed comment sheet and final ERA document outlines where the BLM has reviewed and incorporated your agency comments. We would like to especially thank Kellie Foster and Rachel Friedman for their participation and assistance in helping the BLM to develop the protocol. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gina Ramos, Co-team lead, at 202-452-5084.

Sincerely,

/s/James G. Kenna (Acting)

Assistant Director, Renewable Resources
and Planning

Enclosure

LLM:220 1620 LS Rm. 204:Gramos;pat:8/12/03:452-5084:NOAAFisheriesdoc.

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND NOAA
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
CONSULTATION**

June 12, 2002

In Reply Refer To:
9015 (220)

Mr. Don Knowles
Director, National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Knowles:

On November 13, 2001, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) met with Kellie Carter and Craig Johnson of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Rick Sayers and Jim Serfis of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the procedure for preparing a consultation agreement for the BLM's National Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Vegetation Treatments. At this meeting, all three agencies agreed that the consultation would proceed according to the Section 7 Interagency Cooperation regulations at 50 CFR Part 402.

The BLM intends the national EIS to be a framework for the treatments of vegetation on BLM managed lands. Because the national EIS is broad in scope, specific details of every potential application will not be included in the EIS. Consequently, local and/or State BLM offices will still be required to conduct site specific consultations with the FWS and NMFS on actions determined to "May Affect" a listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats.

Identification of Agency Points of Contact for the preparation of the Vegetation EIS and consultation:

Jim Serfis (FWS) and Kellie Carter (NMFS) will serve as the Points of Contacts (POC's) for their respective agencies on the Vegetation EIS. Both will also serve as team members on the EIS Interdisciplinary Team. As team members, they will provide agency input into the EIS and coordinate preparation of the Biological Opinions (BO's).

The POC's will represent their agency interests and act as the liaison to their agency staff. The BLM and ENSR International (BLM contractor) will coordinate with the POC's to develop the EIS schedule, to gather information and to contact their respective field offices for information,

and to review documents. We agreed that the POC's would attend the Vegetation EIS Interdisciplinary Team meetings and public scoping meetings whenever possible. The POC's or their representatives will also participate in conference calls and plan reviews to provide expertise regarding threatened and endangered species matters during the development of the ecological risk assessment work plan.

Initiating Consultation:

Discussions with the FWS and NMFS began on November 13, 2001. Public scoping meetings began in January 2002 and completed on March 12, 2002. After the draft public scoping report has been prepared and reviewed, the BLM, FWS, and NMFS will begin discussions to identify the "Action Area," identify potential effects to listed and proposed species and their critical habitat from the vegetation treatment methods, i.e., prescribed burning, chemical, mechanical, biological controls that will take place on BLM-managed surface lands (on a programmatic basis), identify the information needed to initiate the formal consultation process, and decide how to deal with the proposed treatment methods. These discussions will begin as soon as possible. The BLM will also develop the Preferred Alternative during this time.

The BLM will prepare an initiation package for the FWS and NMFS to begin the formal consultation process. Before preparation of the initiation package, BLM will work closely with NMFS and FWS to make the package as detailed and comprehensive as possible. Formal consultation will be initiated when the package provides all relevant data required by 50 CFR §402.14 (c) and when NMFS and FWS have received the required information. The initiation package will include the draft Biological Assessment (BA).

As part of the initiation package, the BLM will identify the effects of the proposed action on threatened, endangered, and proposed species and their critical habitat. For information on the effects of current and proposed herbicides (see attached lists of current and proposed herbicides) on threatened and endangered species, the BLM will provide FWS and NMFS information on these herbicides to the extent that the information is available to the public from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other sources, including industry. Such information may include toxic risks to listed species and fate, transport and monitoring methods to assess effectiveness of best management practices (BMP's).

When information is not available for currently approved or proposed herbicides, the BLM along with NMFS and FWS will make an assessment based on the relevant information. This information may be from studies of similar herbicides as to the likely effects to threatened and endangered species. For this EIS, the BLM will only be including those herbicides that have already received EPA labeling for range, forestry, rights of ways, and aquatic use. For those herbicides currently in use and addressed in the previous EIS's, no additional risk assessments will be prepared. Project specific consultation will rely on programmatic level risk assessments and will not require that additional, local risk assessments be prepared.

As discussed in the initial meeting, if the BLM determines that an action "May Affect" a listed species or its designated critical habitat and NMFS/FWS concur, the BLM may be able to modify the action to eliminate any adverse effects. If the BLM determines that an action is "likely to Adversely Affect" (LAA) a listed species or designated critical habitat, the BLM will attempt to modify the action to avoid such adverse effects.

To better assess the threats to listed and proposed species and their critical habitat, the BLM, FWS, and NMFS will begin discussions on the effects of the proposed action before the formal consultation stage to ensure that this information will be included in the Biological Opinion.

Initiation of formal consultation with the FWS and NMFS will occur with the release of the draft EIS. At that time, BLM will submit a final BA to the FWS and NMFS. Separate draft Biological Opinions will be completed by FWS and NMFS 135 days after formal consultation has begun, unless FWS, NMFS, and BLM mutually agree upon an extension. The BLM will review the draft Biological Opinions before the FWS and NMFS submit the final Biological Opinions. We anticipate that the final Biological Opinions will be submitted to BLM just before release of the Final EIS so that the BLM can publish the documents concurrently. The anticipated date for publication of the Biological Opinions and Final EIS is in the Summer of 2003. Both NMFS and FWS will assist BLM in reviewing the comments that BLM receives on the Draft EIS and will help BLM to develop the information to support the Final EIS. The BLM understands that if the selected alternative is not the preferred alternative, BLM will reinitiate consultation.

Information that BLM and ENSR will provide for NMFS and FWS:

The BLM intends the EIS to be a framework for the treatments of vegetation, but BLM will still require local and/or State offices to conduct site-specific consultations with the FWS and NMFS. As part of the BLM's commitment to protect listed and proposed species, the BLM will ensure that actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed or proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. The BLM, along with assistance from NMFS and FWS, will modify the vegetation treatments in the preferred alternative to avoid the likelihood of jeopardy and adverse modification of critical habitat. Evaluation of the effects of the vegetation treatments will be to determine the "short-term harm versus the long-term good."

The Programmatic Biological Assessment will provide an overall framework for species assessments. A detailed Biological Assessment will need to be prepared for individual projects at the field office level (site-specific level analysis). The BLM will prepare an assessment for each listed species likely to be impacted by the proposed action or likely to be found in areas where vegetation treatments will occur. The BLM will provide sufficient information for each species needed to determine the effects of vegetation treatments on the species and their habitat.

Where practical, the BLM may group species based on habitat requirement or taxonomy when conducting analyses of the effect. Watersheds will identify the "action area" for some species and may be taken down to the 4th Hydrologic Unit Classification (HUC) Level.

The EIS will address threatened, endangered, and proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitat. The Biological Assessment will not address candidate species although some of these species, will be assessed in the EIS. The BLM will review State lists of threatened and endangered and sensitive species. The BLM will confer with individual States that have their own Threatened and Endangered Species Law (Oregon and California) if they require additional consultation.

Information that the BLM will gather before consultation begins and separate requirements from each agency:

The BLM understands that NMFS and FWS use the same guidance under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for species and critical habitats. As required by NMFS, the BLM will prepare an Essential Fish Habitat Plan and coordinate the preparation of the documents with the NMFS POC and the NMFS Office of Habitat.

Timelines for EIS ID team meetings, products, reports and updates:

The BLM understands that the FWS and NMFS will provide no intermediate documents. Schedules will be coordinated with BLM and ENSR that meet the EIS schedule. The BLM will review the consultation flowchart with FWS and NMFS for any further clarification. To stay on schedule, the BLM will coordinate with the POCs for NMFS and FWS to ensure that schedules are met and to identify any problems during the informal and formal consultation process.

The BLM, FWS, and NMFS will need to closely coordinate activities throughout the EIS process to ensure that we have the Biological Opinion by the time the Final EIS is completed. Gary Frazer, Assistant Director for Endangered Species, will sign the Biological Opinion for the FWS, and Don Knowles, Director of the Office of Protected Resources, will sign the Biological Opinion for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the EIS, please contact Gina Ramos at 202-452-5084, Brian Amme, Vegetation EIS co-team leads at 202-452-5084 or 775-862-6645, or Tim Reuwsaat, Group Manager for Resources at 202-452-5179.

Sincerely,
/s/Elena C. Daly

Assistant Director, Renewable Resources
and Planning

Enclosure

LLM:220 1620 LS Rm, 201:GRamos:452-5084:pat:6/7/02:NMFS&FWSconsultation

Currently Approved Herbicides from BLM Environmental Impact Statements

Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program, December 1985

2,4-D
Picloram
Dicamba
Glyphosate (Rodeo formulation)

California Vegetation Management FEIS, August 1988

Amitrole
Asulam
Atrazine
Bromacil
2,4-D
Dalapon
Dicamba
Diuron
Fosamine
Glyphosate
Hexazinone
Picloram
Simazine
Tebuthiuron
Triclopyr

Vegetation Treatment EIS - Thirteen Western States, July 1991

Atrazine
Bromacil
Chlorsulfuron
Clopyralid
2,4-D
Dicamba
Diuron
Glyphosate
Hexazinone
Imazapyr
Mefluidide
Metsulfuron Methyl
Picloram
Simazine

Sulfometuron Methyl
Tebuthiuron
Triclopyr

Western Oregon FEIS, August 1992

Asulam
Atrazine
2,4-D
Dicamba
Glyphosate
Hexazinone
Picloram
Triclopyr

New Proposed Herbicides to be analyzed in the Vegetation EIS

Diquat
Fluridone
Imazapic
Diflufenzopyr
MCPA

August 28, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
4000 (220)

*Endorse
8-25-03*

Memorandum

To: Gary Frazier
Assistant Director for Endangered Species, FWS

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning
Bureau of Land Management

Subject: A General Approach to the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the Bureau of Land
Management (BLM) Vegetation Treatment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

In May 2002, two Toxicology Risk Assessment Teams were assembled to address both human health and ecological risks for herbicide use and practices on public lands. The teams included representatives from the BLM, BLM's EIS contractor ENSR, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The risk assessment teams had two purposes. The first was to review current and past methodologies used for risk assessments by the BLM and other agencies, including the EPA. The other purpose was to develop a consensus on which methodologies provided the best available science and process or protocol the BLM would use to conduct future human health and ecological risk analyses for chemical herbicides proposed for use on public lands administered by the BLM.

The BLM has finalized the attached ERA and will immediately start the risk assessments. The BLM will include the information from the risk assessments in the Draft EIS's Analysis section as well as in the Biological Assessment. We look forward to working with the FWS on the next phase of the EIS as well as ESA consultation. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gina Ramos, Co-team lead at 202-452-5084.

/s/James G. Kenna (Acting)

Attachment

LLM:220 1620 LS Rm. 204:Gramos:pat:452-5084:FWSLetter

Y. Kenna
8-28-03

August 28, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
4000 (220)

Ms. Laurie K. Allen
Acting Director, NOAA
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources, F/PR-3
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Allen:

Thank you for your comments addressing the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "A General Approach to the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the BLM Vegetation Treatment Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)."

In May 2002 two Toxicology Risk Assessment Teams were assembled to address both human health and ecological risks for herbicide use and practices on public lands. The teams included representatives from the BLM, BLM's EIS contractor ENSR, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The risk assessment teams had two purposes. The first was to review current and past methodologies used for risk assessments by the BLM and other agencies, including the EPA. The other purpose was to develop a consensus on which methodologies provided the best available science and process or protocol the BLM would use to conduct future human health and ecological risk analyses for chemical herbicides proposed for use on public lands administered by the BLM.

The comments and input provided by NOAA have been very helpful. The enclosed comment sheet and final ERA document outlines where the BLM has reviewed and incorporated your agency comments. We would like to especially thank Kellie Foster and Rachel Friedman for their participation and assistance in helping the BLM to develop the protocol. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gina Ramos, Co-team lead, at 202-452-5084.

Sincerely,

/s/James G. Kenna (Acting)

Assistant Director, Renewable Resources
and Planning

Enclosure

LLM:220 1620 LS Rm. 204:Gramos:pat:8/12/03:452-5084:NOAA Fisheriesdoc.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/AES/DHCR/016804

APR 1 2004

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director –Endangered Species

From: **Acting** Chief, Division of Consultation, Habitat Conservation Planning, Recovery & State Grants *John Shepard*

Subject: Consultation Agreement with BLM on the Vegetation Treatment Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Attached is a Consultation Agreement that describes the process that the Service and BLM will follow to complete the consultation for BLM's Vegetation Treatment program. BLM requested that we enter into the agreement to ensure an understanding of how the parties would work together and offer a timeline for the process. We worked with BLM to develop the agreement and have reviewed the document that has been finalized by BLM staff.

Please note that there are two copies to be signed and that one of the copies has been already signed by Judge Shepard. BLM staff requested that we retain the document signed by Judge Shepard and forward the document with your signature to BLM. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the document.

Attachment

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

and

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,

CONSULTATION AGREEMENT FOR THE

VEGETATION TREATMENTS PROGRAMMATIC

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A. Purpose and Need:

This Consultation Agreement (Agreement) is formulated to establish an effective and cooperative process upon which the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation may be conducted between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rangelands, Soil, Water and Air Group, Washington DC, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 9 Washington DC Office (Service). This Agreement addresses consultation and conferencing on all species determined to be listed as threatened or endangered, or proposed for listing, and designated or proposed critical habitat occurring on the Federal lands managed by the BLM.

This Agreement will serve to define the process, products, actions, schedule and expectations of the BLM and the Service regarding the consultation process for the *Vegetation Treatments Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Vegetation Treatments EIS).

The Federal agencies will convene an interagency team composed of their employees to conduct this consultation.

B. Consultation Background:

The BLM manages 261 million acres of public land resources. BLM and its contractor, ENSR, are preparing a *Vegetation Treatments Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* to evaluate proposed vegetation treatment methods and alternatives on lands administered by the BLM in the western continental United States and Alaska. This EIS is to serve to update the following four EISs developed by the BLM in the mid 1980s and early 1990s:

- Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program – 1986
- California Vegetation Management – 1988
- Vegetation Treatment of BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States – 1991
- Western Oregon Program Management of Competing Vegetation – 1992

The EIS will provide updated information and analyses provided in the earlier programmatic EISs, where necessary, to ensure that ongoing and proposed vegetation treatment methods are safe to humans and the environment and meet treatment objectives. Information provided in the EIS will help the BLM ensure that BLM vegetation treatment activities comply with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws, regulations, statutes, policies, and management plans.

C. Authority:

Authority to enter into this Agreement is contained in the following:

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
 Memorandum of Agreement on Endangered Species Act Section 7 Programmatic Consultation and Coordination among BLM, USDA Forest Service, NMFS, and the FWS, August 30, 2000

D. Consultation Action:

This Agreement encourages streamlining of the consultation process in the preparation of the Vegetation Treatments EIS. This increased coordination will enable the Vegetation Treatments EIS to incorporate species habitat needs and will facilitate and expedite the consultation process.

In November 2001, Informal Section 7 Consultation began with the Service on the Vegetation Treatments EIS. Formal consultation will commence when a complete written initiation request, as defined in 50 CFR 402.14 (c), including the draft Vegetation Treatments Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA) for the Draft Vegetation Treatments EIS, is received and determined to be complete by the FWS.

It is anticipated that BLM will initiate formal consultation with the Service at the time the Draft EIS is issued. The BLM will submit a draft BA as part of its consultation package. The Service will review the draft BA and notify the BLM within 30 days of any missing information in the BA. Once the draft BA is considered complete by the Service, a final BA will be prepared. The BLM will then prepare a written initiation request to start formal consultation. The Service will conduct the formal consultation within a 135-day time frame. The level of information expected in the programmatic biological consultation is unlikely to provide sufficient detail to reach conclusions that incidental take is reasonably certain to occur. Therefore, any incidental take exemptions would be deferred to site-specific consultations where sufficient detail would be available. Any request for an extension of the formal consultation period will be made by mutual agreement between BLM and the FWS.

The BA will follow the outline as found in guidance in the Endangered Species Consultation Handbook (March 1998). Anticipated environmental effects, conservation actions, mitigation, and monitoring will be disclosed in the BA. This includes analysis of direct, indirect, and interrelated and interdependent effects on listed, proposed, or candidate species, and/or designated or proposed critical habitat from the analysis of the actions in the Vegetation Treatments EIS.

E. Operations:

The BLM agrees to:

1. Appoint Ms. Gina Ramos as the primary contact regarding all BA and ESA issues and as BLM's consultation team member. If Ms. Ramos is not available, the secondary contact person is Mr. Brian Amme. Ms. Carol Spurrier will work with Ms. Ramos and Mr. Amme as necessary to facilitate consultation. If there are any unforeseeable changes in personnel, new contact person names and phone numbers will be immediately provided to the Service.
2. Prepare an assessment for each listed species that may potentially be impacted by the proposed action or likely to be found in areas where vegetation treatments would occur. The BLM will provide sufficient information for each species needed to determine the effects of vegetation treatments on the species and their habitat use. Where practical, the BLM may group species based on habitat requirement or taxonomy when conducting the effects analyses. The Programmatic BA will provide an overall framework for species assessments with a more detailed BA prepared for individual projects (site-specific level analysis).
3. Address candidate species in the BA. The BLM will review state lists of threatened and endangered and sensitive species and will confer with individual states that have their own threatened and endangered species law (Oregon and California) if they require additional consultation.
4. Will prepare an Essential Fish Habitat Plan and coordinate the preparation of the document with the Office of Habitat, NOAA Fisheries.
5. Submit recent risk assessments prepared by the BLM on chemicals that will be applied on BLM lands as part of the Vegetation Treatments EIS consultation package.
6. Submit recent risk assessments written by the FS on chemicals that will be applied on BLM lands as part of the Vegetation EIS consultation package.
7. Provide copies of the old BLM vegetation treatments EISs (as necessary), a copy of the preparation plan, and copies of relevant supporting documents as they are completed.
8. Hold meetings, conference calls, etc., as needed. If a milestone problem occurs, a conference call will be held to discuss the problem.

9. Appoint Mr. Bud Cribley and Mr. Dwight Fielder to the Division Chief/Group Manager Resolution Working Group; Appoint Mr. Ed Shepard to the Assistant Director Resolution Working Group and, Appoint Mr. Jim Hughes to the Director Resolution Working Group.
10. If there are any unforeseeable changes in personnel, new contact person names and phone numbers will be immediately provided to the FWS.
11. Provide a 90-day time frame for review of a final BA.
12. Identify all time commitments (see Attachment A). If the schedule for BLM provision of documents and other information has not been met and changes are required, changes to deadlines will not be finalized without mutual agreement with the Service on the necessary deadline changes.

The FWS agrees to:

1. Appoint Mr. Jim Serfis as the primary contact regarding all BA and ESA issues. If there are any unforeseeable changes in personnel, new contact person names and phone numbers will be immediately provided to the BLM and NOAA Fisheries.
2. Coordinate with counterpart offices for the purposes of this consultation, including identification of additional listed species list to be included in the Vegetation Treatments EIS project area.
3. Participate in milestone meetings, conference calls, etc.
4. Provide threatened and endangered species expertise to help the BLM identify conservation opportunities during preparation of the Vegetation Treatments EIS.
5. Provide a BO within the 135-day timeframe, unless extended by mutual consent.
6. Appoint Mr. Patrick Leonard to the Division Chief/Group Manager Resolution Working Group; Appoint Mr. Gary Frazer to the Assistant Director Resolution Working Group and, Appoint Mr. Clint Riley to the Director Resolution Working Group. If there are any unforeseeable changes in personnel, new contact person names and phone numbers will be immediately provided to the BLM.
7. Meet the time commitment found in Attachment A. Any scheduled changes will be made by mutual agreement.

The BLM and Service mutually agree to:

1. Provide early notification if any problems may arise that would affect the documents or timeframes.

2. Allow the primary contact personnel to make all the necessary changes to the timeframes. The Group Manager and Supervisor will only become involved if the problem becomes elevated and problem items require signatures.
3. Follow the initiation criteria as outlined in 50 402.14(c) in preparation of the initiation package.
4. Consider this as a programmatic level consultation. All Actions that could affect species will undergo consultation at the Field Office level. As part of the BLM's commitment to protect threatened and endangered species, the BLM will ensure that actions are taken to avoid a "jeopardy opinion." This is to ensure that there is continued existence of the listed species or no adverse modification of a designated critical habitat. The BLM, along with the Service, may design mitigation action for vegetation treatments that must be followed to avoid a jeopardy opinion. The focus of the intended outcome of the vegetation treatments will be to evaluate the "short term harm versus the long term good."
5. Describe a process for completing consultations at the state office and field office levels.
6. Review the comments that the BLM receives on the Draft EIS and develop the information to support the Final EIS. The BLM understands it that if the selected alternative is not the preferred alternative, BLM will reinitiate consultation.
7. Agree on effects during the informal consultation stage in order to ensure that this information will be included in the BO.
8. Coordinate as partners by mutually agreeing on conservation measures to promote recovery that will be included in the Vegetation Treatments EIS.
9. Only amend the Agreement by consensus of both parties.
10. Terminate the Agreement only if one party gives 60 day written notice.
11. Acknowledge that this Agreement is only to improve the internal management of this consultation by the BLM and the Service, and is not intended to and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as obligating either party to the expenditure of funds, or for the future payment of money, in excess of appropriations authorized by law.
12. Recognize the use of Issue Resolution Teams (IRT) if an impasse is reached regarding any aspect of this process, Agreement, or with any of the documents. Elevations of issues to IRTs will follow these tiers: Division Chief/Group Manager Level, Assistant Director Level, and Director Level. After 15 days, the Division Chief/Group Manager level Resolution Working Group will send unresolved issues to the Assistant Director Level Resolution Working Group. If resolution cannot be achieved within 15 days at the Assistant Director Level, the issue will be elevated to the Director Level. The Director Level Issue Resolution

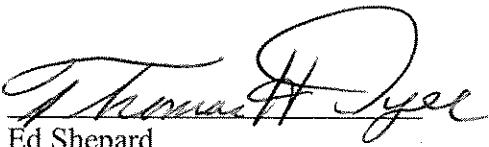
Working group decisions will be issued within 15 days and are the final and binding resolutions of disputes.

13. All issue resolution working group reviews should be initiated by request of the applicable working group, or a specific agency. The request will include (1) a concise summary of issues in dispute and decisions that need to be made (2) agency position statements on each of the issues (3) all supporting rationale and documentation for consideration; and (4) a brief chronology of key actions taken to resolve the dispute.

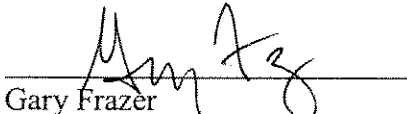
F. Term

This Agreement shall take effect upon the date of the last signature. It shall remain in effect for four years, or until the BO for the BLM Vegetation EIS is completed, whichever comes first.

G. Approved


Ed Shepard
Bureau of Land Management

4/19/04
Date


Gary Frazer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

4/12/04
Date

Attachment A

Schedule for Document Review and Completion of Formal Consultation

Task	Due Date
BLM submit preliminary draft BA (including information on all treatment methods except use of herbicides)	November 15, 2004
Service provide BLM with comments on preliminary draft BA (less sections on herbicides)	December 31, 2004
BLM submit draft Ecological Risk Assessments to the Service	March 31, 2004
BLM submit preliminary draft BA (including sections related to use of herbicides) to Service	May 15, 2004
Service will notify BLM of any missing 50CFR 402.14(c) data in the preliminary draft BA	June 15 2004
BLM provides Service with needed information and Final BA	August 22, 2004
Service formulate draft Biological Opinion	November 20, 2004
BLM reviews draft Biological Opinion and provides comments to Service	December 5, 2004
Service prepare Final Biological Opinion	January 5, 2005